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15 December 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Remarks made by CARAVEL on 8 December 1961

The writer attended a dinner given by [] for CARAVEL and his wife on 8 December 1961. Following dinner and a relaxed conversation covering personal topics, the following topics were covered:

1. German Nationalism: I suggested that well informed Americans were concerned regarding the probable impact of growing German nationalism on German foreign policy. I expressed the point of view that Germany might turn its back on the West should Germans become convinced that their Western Allies were unwilling or unable to promote German reunification and a return of the Eastern territories. At such a time, those West Germans who continue to advocate adherence to NATO will be classified as separatists or traitors to Germany. CARAVEL agreed, adding that the period of real danger will begin in another 15 years when memories of the last war will be dim; if by this time territories in the East which are "purely German" have not been restored to a unified Germany, nationalistic frustrations will poison German political life. CARAVEL emphasized that the Eastern territories he was referring to were territories which had been purely German for the last 400 years, and not those which were half Polish and half German in population. (I did not feel sure enough of CARAVEL to ask pointed questions regarding the justice of a future German claim to specific pieces of present Poland.)

2. Views Regarding the Hitler Regime: CARAVEL commented that 75 years lapsed before a good history of the French Revolution could be written. He feels that it is too soon to write a well-balanced history of the Third Reich. He noted that Germans generally supported Hitler in his nationalistic drive, at least through the middle Thirties. Opposition to Hitler in 1933-1936 period was restricted primarily to Socialists, including Socialist Trade Unionists, Communists and certain of the Catholic organizations. Socialist and Communist opposition was immediate and sharp. CARAVEL's opposition to Hitler stemmed from his ties with Catholic groups.

(C/O Comment: It was not politic at this meeting to ask whether these views are widely shared within HBGROPING, and where.)

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